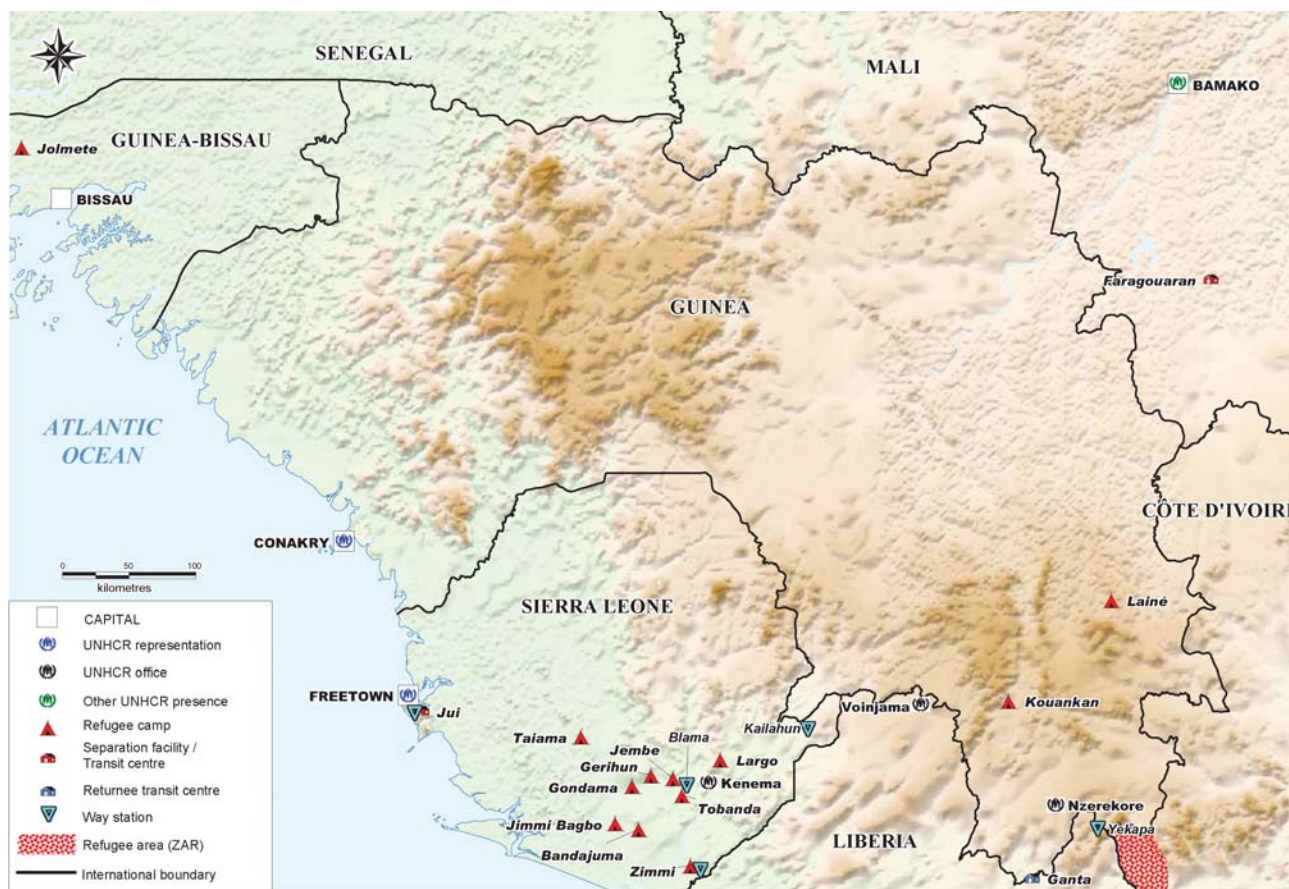


Guinea



Operational highlights

- UNHCR helped more than 6,000 Liberian refugees (over 40 per cent of the target) to repatriate.
- Nearly 600 asylum applications (13 per cent of all pending submissions) were decided on by the Guinean authorities with technical support from UNHCR.
- More than 40 refugees were resettled in third countries by the Office.
- Food assistance was reoriented from general distribution (nearly 20,000 beneficiaries in January) towards the targeted feeding of Liberian

refugees with specific needs (nearly 10,000 beneficiaries in July).

- Twenty hectares of forest around Lainé refugee camp were declared protected.

Working environment

An acute economic crisis and weak political and social institutions led to unrest and violence in 2006 and early 2007. The Government imposed martial law at the beginning of 2007 to crack down on two months of strikes and civil unrest. Protests and widespread

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	14,500	14,500	52	51
	Sierra Leone	6,400	6,400	45	36
	Côte d'Ivoire	4,300	4,300	48	54
	Various	70	70	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Sierra Leone	1,800	1,800	46	41
	Liberia	1,500	1,500	40	45
	Côte d'Ivoire	700	700	40	46
	Various	90	90	-	-
Total		29,360	29,360		



UNHCR/???

Liberian refugees being relocated in Kouankan camp, near Nzérékoré.

violence ended with the nomination of a new prime minister in February. Following these events, the humanitarian community began regaining access to populations in need of assistance. The *Commission Nationale pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés* (CNISR) became UNHCR's new government counterpart in August 2007.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's goals in Guinea were to provide international protection to refugees through the efficient implementation of asylum procedures; improve the quality of refugee status determination (RSD) by ensuring prompt access to the relevant decision-making bodies; promote the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees; phase out camp-based assistance; and, through self-reliance projects, promote the local integration of Liberian refugees unable or unwilling to return home. Other goals were to help Ivorian refugees repatriate when possible; hand over vacated camps to local authorities and help them rehabilitate the

environment in refugee-affected areas; and use resettlement as a durable solution for those refugees with specific protection needs.

Protection and solutions

Guinea offered a favourable protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers despite the political and social instability that affected the country throughout the year. After the successful repatriation of Liberian refugees and the phasing out of repatriation schemes, the Government agreed to make local integration a priority solution for those refugees unable or unwilling to return to their country. A pilot project was conducted with seven families who received land and other support for their local integration. Ivorian refugees remained cautious about the peace process in their country and were not yet willing to repatriate.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Some 400 refugees with specific needs were registered and assisted. Implementing partners counselled more than 400 individuals in need of psychological support and organized more than 150

sessions on reproductive health and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns were organized for some 9,000 refugees, and 90,000 condoms distributed.

Crop production: Tool kits and more than 20,000 kilos of rice seed were provided to more than 800 Liberian and Ivorian refugees. Some 250 hectares were cultivated, producing annual crops of 1,300 kg of rice per hectare in swamps and 900 kg in hilly areas.

Domestic needs and household support: The targeted distribution of non-food items helped maintain the general welfare of refugees. All camp-based Liberian and Ivorian refugees received monthly rations of 200 grams of soap, and women and girls of reproductive age were provided with sanitary kits. Travel bags were given to repatriating refugees.

Education: More than 6,000 Liberian refugee children (47 per cent of them girls) attended primary schools during the academic year 2006-2007 (85 per cent of the age group). Sixty-four Ivorian students (41 per cent of them female) received a subsistence allowance and transport and tuition fees to help them attend vocational training schools in Conakry. UNHCR transferred ownership and management of seven camp schools, comprising 54 classrooms in Kouankan and 37 classrooms in Lainé, to the Government. In Guinée Forestière UNHCR constructed three-classroom blocks at the University and the N'Zérékoré and Lola schools.

Food: Over 1,000 metric tonnes of food (bulgur wheat, maize, salt, peas and vegetable oil) was distributed in refugee camps in 2007. While food rations were set at 1,600 calories for Liberians, in line with the Joint Assessment Mission recommendations, a full ration of 2,100 calories was maintained for Ivorian camp-based refugees. All returning Liberians received a one-month food ration as well as hot meals in transit centres and snacks during the journey. In December, 50 metric tons of food were provided for some 300 Sierra Leoneans being assisted to repatriate.

Forestry: UNHCR worked to reduce refugees' environmental impact on host areas by supporting tree nurseries and protection measures such as tree marking, forest patrols and information campaigns. Tree nurseries produced over 250 kilos of seeds and some 30,000 seedlings of species such as teak and acacia. Some 7,000 teak trees, 8,000 palm trees and 2,000 kola trees were planted in and around the refugee camps in Kouankan, Lainé and Kola. In Kouankan, some 2,000 improved stoves were made by Ivorian refugees, who were also trained in fuel-saving cooking methods.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR organized medical screening and vaccinations for all returnees to Liberia.

With one clinic operational for an average of 6,600 refugees, health standards were maintained at a satisfactory level in the refugee camps, and there were no outbreaks of diseases in 2007. Malnutrition among under-fives was below 0.5 per cent and their mortality rate below 1.5 per 10,000.

Income generation: Some 20 urban refugees in Conakry received small-business grants to help them become self-reliant. UNHCR also continued to support some 170 Ivorian refugees in Kouankan who had received loans or in-kind assistance in 2006.

Legal assistance: Refugee status was granted to some 370 people, while about 220 applications were rejected. At the end of the year, over 4,000 cases were pending review by the national RSD body. In N'zérékoré, seven out of 76 unaccompanied minors were reunified with their families, and 15 were repatriated.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered various components of the operational, management and staffing costs of implementing partners. Vehicles and other assets were made available under right-of-use agreements, and technical support, expertise and training in key policy and operational areas were provided to implementing and operational partners.

Sanitation: Most shelters in refugee camps have family latrines and bathrooms built in separate places for men, women and refugees with specific needs. In Kouankan, some 250 blocks of latrines and bathrooms were maintained, and UNHCR supported the construction of an additional 26 family blocks and 37 blocks of community latrines. Eight new garbage pits were constructed.

Shelter and other infrastructure: Community-level support encouraged refugees to maintain their own shelters. UNHCR also helped rehabilitate the damaged shelters of 270 Liberian and 53 Ivorian refugee families with specific needs. Shelter packages (tool kits and construction materials) were provided to seven refugee families taking part in the pilot project on local integration.

Transport and logistics: The Liberia-based regional fleet of trucks was used to transport repatriating refugees. At the end of the repatriation, 10 trucks were redeployed to support UNHCR operations in Senegal. UNHCR also rehabilitated, on an *ad hoc* basis, key segments of the "route du café" linking Guinée Forestière with Liberia.

Water: Potable water was made available at the average of 41 litres per person per day in each camp in Guinea. Testing and chlorination prevented contamination, and all refugees live within 60 metres of water points.

Constraints

The crisis in February prompted the evacuation of all non-essential staff, and Guinea remained under UN security restrictions. However, the access to persons of concern to UNHCR gradually improved. Nevertheless, the changing political and institutional environment did not allow UNHCR to pursue discussions with the Government on refugees' socio-economic rights and citizenship. Poor road conditions to and within Guinée Forestière, UNHCR's main area of operations, continued to impede humanitarian work. Many urban refugees refused to consider options other than resettlement.

Financial information

The budget, which reached USD 25 million at the peak of the refugee operation in Guinea in 2003, decreased to USD 9.8 million in 2007. UNHCR's 2007 programme received 30 per cent of earmarked funding. Budget adjustments after mid-year allowed unutilized funds from the Liberia repatriation project to be shifted to local integration projects which strengthened community infrastructure and services.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR maintained a branch office in Conakry and a sub-office in N'zérékoré, and operated with 97 staff

(13 internationals, 76 nationals and eight UNVs). The Office improved its asset tracking and management through the sale of nearly USD 400,000 worth of old assets. UNHCR plans to implement the recommendations of the audit conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in May and June 2008.

Working with others

UNHCR had sub-agreements with two government and nine NGO partners. Organized repatriation was implemented by an international partner from Liberia. Strategies for local integration and contingency measures were developed in cooperation with the UN Country Team, which included a task force on development in Guinée Forestière.

Overall assessment

Repatriation to Liberia was concluded, with Guinea accounting for 45 per cent of 110,000 assisted returns to Liberia since October 2004. The Government of Guinea supported local integration for all refugees unwilling or unable to return to their countries. A comprehensive strategy on local integration has been developed in association with the UN and NGO community. However, discussions with the Government on granting refugees access to public services and the labour market, as well as the right to acquire property, produced few results. Permanent documents and citizenship have not yet been granted to eligible refugees. The Ivorian refugees in Kouankan had access to agricultural land and shelter and other services provided by UNHCR and its partners, but conditions in their country of origin were not conducive to their voluntary repatriation.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: *Commission Nationale chargée de l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés, Radio rurale de Guinée*

NGOs: *Action by Churches Together, Action Contre la Faim, Agence de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement, Catholic Relief Services, International Rescue Committee, Organisation pour le Développement Intégré Communautaire, Search for Common Ground, Service Jésuite des Réfugiés*

Others: *Fédération International des Sociétés de la Croix Rouge*

Operational partners

Others: *FAO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO*

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	9,641,908	2,248,260	7,110,125	9,358,385	9,338,699

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,308,424	0
Community services	184,325	142,260
Crop production	83,014	4,034
Domestic needs and household support	131,936	3,561
Education	242,682	79,322
Food	24,275	17,824
Forestry	27,595	9,617
Health and nutrition	246,244	92,318
Income generation	5,613	56,058
Legal assistance	196,458	26,018
Operational support (to agencies)	608,910	128,934
Sanitation	32,551	30,501
Shelter and infrastructure	107,909	226,015
Transport and logistics	708,962	242,265
Water	81,157	9,629
Instalments with implementing partners	1,277,702	(1,068,356)
Sub-total operational activities	6,267,757	0
Programme support	3,070,942	0
Total expenditure	9,338,699	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure		(221,646)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	2,511,188	
Reporting received	(1,233,487)	
Balance	1,277,702	
Previous years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1st January		1,485,279
Reporting received		(1,068,356)
Refunded to UNHCR		(166,447)
Adjustments		(19,764)
Balance		230,711